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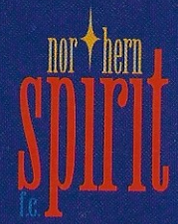

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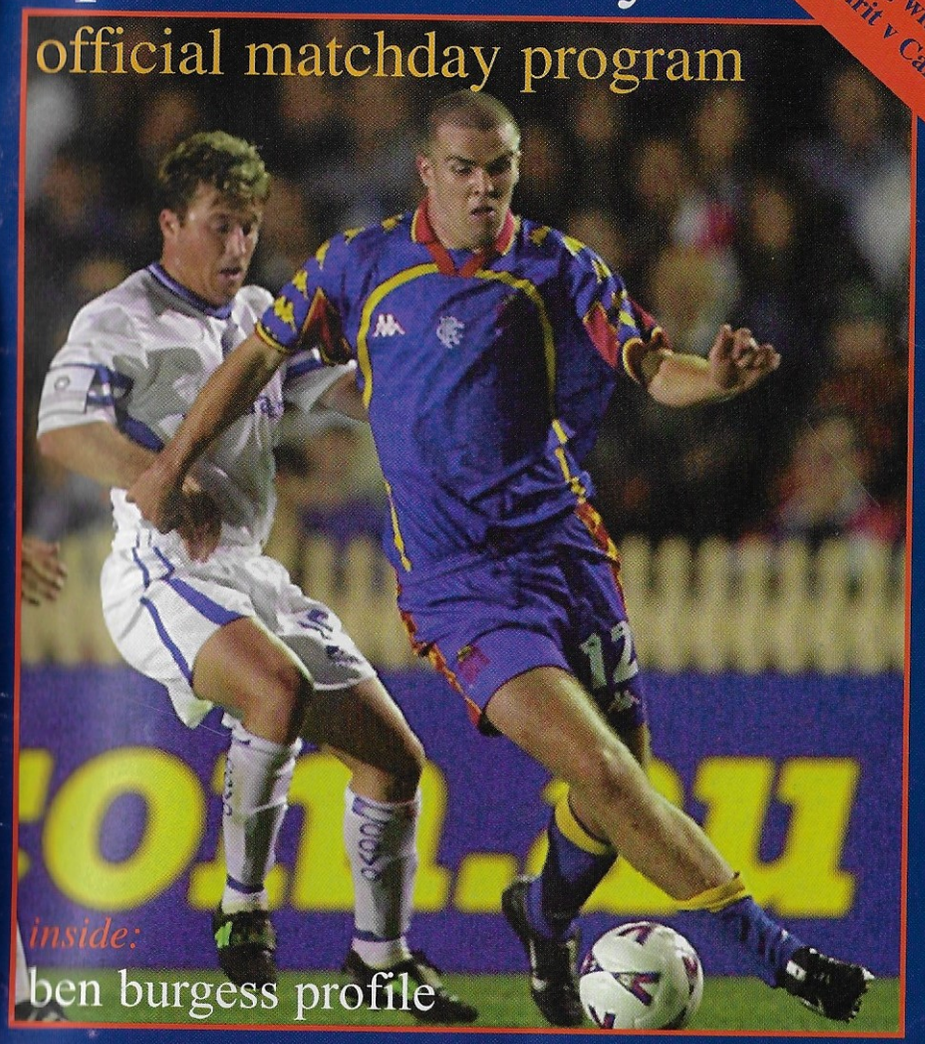
# spirit matchday

## official matchday program



*inside:*
ben burgess profile

**WIN!!!**
A trip for two
flying with the team to
Spirit v Carlton Dec 3

## spirit v kingz

friday november 3
kick-off 7.30pm

$2.00

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# contents

In your latest issue of Spirit Matchday you will find:


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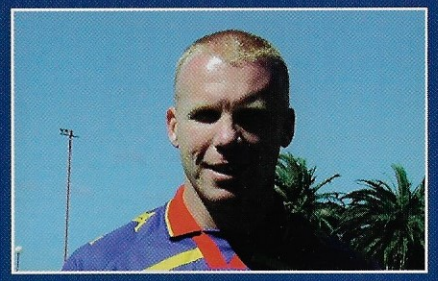
| Page 4 | Read Robbie Slater's views on Spirit's fine win over Eastern Pride last Saturday. |
| Page 6/7 | Spirit Matchday talks to new recruit Ben Burgess, and finds out his aims for the NSL season. |
| Page 8 | Today's squads. |
| Page 9 | A look at our opposition - Football Kingz. |
| Page 10 | Latest Spirit supporters club news. |
| Page 11 | Read how Spirit picked up their first win of the season at Eastern Pride last Saturday night. |
| Page 12/13 | Poster - Matthew Langdon |
| Page 14 | Spirit round-up. |
| Page 15 | WIN! A trip for two flying with the team when Spirit take on Carlton in Melbourne on December 3. |
| Pages 16/17 | Want a quick quiz? Wordsearches? Then go to our kids pages and try your luck! |
| Pages 18/19 | Check out the latest Spirit and NSL news. |
| Pages 22 | Spirit's Youth Team are leading the competition. Spirit Matchday tracks their progress. |


And much much more - but only in issue 2 of your very own Northern Spirit matchday programme - Spirit Matchday!

# club captain's column

*with Robbie Slater*



Last week's victory against Eastern Pride has given us a real boost.

It was not only the three points but the way we played. We know we have the talent and depth to go a long way and after putting it together on the field against Eastern Pride the mood has lifted significantly.

The first match we played well and then made a few silly mistakes in defence while against Sydney Olympic we didn't create much but defended very well.

Against Eastern Pride we did everything well. We attacked well and when we were under pressure in the second half we defended very well against a team that never gives in and always gives 120 per cent. It was an especially good result considering we were without Scott Thomas and Noel Spencer, who were both injured and Craig Foster, who did not get a clearance in time for the match. Last season when we lost a few players we were exposed but this year we have the depth to be able to cover for every position.

Arnie has been drumming into us the fact that we have a big squad and he is going to use different players each week - depending on the opposition and circumstances.

That means players will be disappointed but we have a good feeling amongst the squad and everyone knows that the end result - us winning - is all that matters and we are all part of a squad.

Our first home match of the season against Sydney Olympic was a little disappointing. We had a big crowd and the support was fantastic and we would have loved to say thank you with a win. I'm sure you will agree the commitment was first class and that was lacking a little last year. We have some new players and it will take a little time to settle down but hopefully the win against Eastern Pride will give us the confidence to come out tonight and put on a show.

Thank you for your support and I hope we can bang a few home and leave North Sydney Oval with three points tonight!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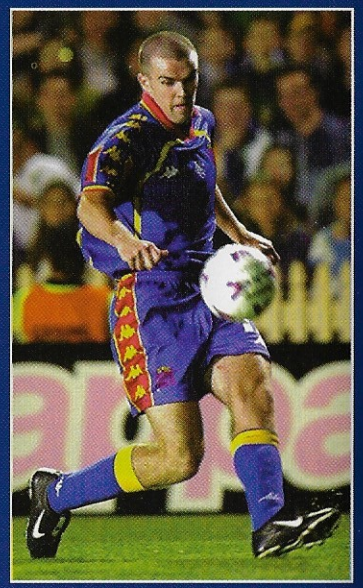
# profile ben burgess

## MORE THAN A TARGET-MAN



Although strapping striker Ben Burgess describes himself as a 'target-man', in his three games so far for the Spirit he has already shown far more than that image portrays.

Once the description of lumbering forwards who did little more than head the ball down for teammates, Burgess is no such thing. At 6'4" in old money Burgess is indeed a big target to aim for, but has surprising skills for such a big man. In fact, his teammates are equally well served knocking the ball to his feet as to that shaven head of his.

Honing those skills as a 14-year old with Everton, Burgess decided to join Blackburn at the age of 16 under the tutelage of then boss Roy Hodgson. A spell in the reserve team followed and then came a nerve-wracking first team debut against Portsmouth.

Brought into the team by former Rangers boss Graeme Souness, Burgess was told the day before the game he would be playing, and admits there was little sleep that night!

Burgess actually started the game - which ended up a 1-1 draw - alongside current Bradford City forward Ashley Ward.

"I didn't score or anything, but Souness was great even before the game. He said there was no pressure on me and he wasn't expecting anything. As the guy who gave me my chance obviously I think he is a good manager," Burgess said.

Jamaican international Darren Moore, dubbed 'Bruno' by fans because of his similarity in size to the former heavyweight boxer, was one of the men charged with stopping Burgess that day. 'Massive' is how Burgess describes him!

It's not only the likes of Ward and Moore that Burgess has been on the park with though, as he recalls playing a game against Liverpool Reserves.

"They had Michael Owen and Jamie Redknapp playing for them, and Redknapp in particular was a different class. He was one of those guys that would talk to you all game, even though he was on the opposition team."

Looking up to his Blackburn boss Souness as he does, Burgess admits that he was surprised when he offered him the opportunity to come to Australia on loan, especially as some English clubs and Scottish Premier league side Aberdeen had also shown interest.

"Souness said he had four months in America when he was my age, and it proved invaluable to him. When he said that I thought a similar spell might work out for me too.

"Everybody - including Blackburn's Aussie keeper John Filan - said I would have a great time in Sydney, and so far they are right. It's just a great place," Burgess said.

What about the standard of play? Burgess says that it has impressed him, especially as not knowing really what to expect.

"There's lot more football played over here. The ball is on the ground more whereas in the English 1st Division it's a million miles per hour. All the defenders I have come up against so far have known what they were doing - unfortunately!"

With his full-time employers 12,000 miles away Burgess knows he can't slack off at all - Spirit send a video of each game back to Blackburn.

One set of people Spirit won't need to send a video to of tonight's game is Burgess's parents, who arrived in Sydney this week to watch their son play.

"I better play well tonight against the Kingz," laughs Burgess, "Otherwise my Dad will have a go at me!"

The way this 18-year old, who turns 19 two days before next week's clash with Newcastle, has started his career in Australia there is no way anyone will be having a go at him. In fact, as Burgess himself says, "I just need to knock in a few goals now." His parents and thousands of Spirit fans hope it's tonight.

### Ben Burgess fact-file:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nickname: | Big Ben | Previous clubs: | Everton (schoolboy) |
| DOB: | 9/11/81 | Position: | Striker |
| Place of birth: | Stockport, Lancashire. | Squad number: | 12 |
| Signed from: | Blackburn Rovers (loan) | | |

# TODAY'S SQUADS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | John Perosh | Julio Cuello | 1 |
| 2 | Michael Cunico | Che bunce | 2 |
| 3 | Matthew Langdon | Aaron Lines | 3 |
| 4 | Matthew Bingley | Levent Osman | 4 |
| 5 | Mark Rudan | Jonathan Perry | 5 |
| 6 | Scott Thomas | Chris Jackson | 6 |
| 7 | Robbie Slater | Wynton Rufer | 7 |
| 8 | Robbie Enes | Gerard Davis | 8 |
| 9 | Alex Moreira | Paul Urlovic | 9 |
| 10 | Gabriel Mendez | Andy Bluhm | 10 |
| 11 | Troy Cranney | Dennis Ibrahim | 11 |
| 12 | Ben Burgess | Harry Ngata | 12 |
| 13 | Phil Moss | Jeff Campbell | 13 |
| 14 | Noel Spencer | Noah Hickey | 14 |
| 15 | Tony Perinich | Ivan Vicelich | 15 |
| 16 | Simon Catanzaro | Lee Jones | 16 |
| 17 | Paul Bilokapic | Leigh Kenyon | 17 |
| 18 | Daniel Watkins | Michael Cartwright | 18 |
| 19 | Ryan Griffiths | Chris Marsh | 20 |
| 20 | Paul Henderson | Riki Van Steedan | 21 |
| 21 | Adam Griffiths | Aaron Silva | 22 |
| 22 | Jacek Sobczyk | Simon Eaddy | 23 |
| 23 | Adam Snyder | Tim Stevens | 25 |
| 24 | Tony Faria | COACH: Wynton Rufer | |
| 28 | Ian Crook | | |
| 30 | Graham Arnold | | |
| COACH: Graham Arnold | | | |

KINGZ football club

## opposition lowdown

Northern Spirit tonight welcome the Kingz Football Club from New Zealand, who travel to Sydney full of confidence after winning their last two games.

After an opening day defeat at the hands of Sydney Olympic, the Kingz bounced back to defeat the Eastern Pride 2-1 in round 2 before smashing Newcastle United 5-1 at home just seven days ago.

The star in those wins has been striker Tim Stevens, signed just days before the season started. Stevens scored both his team's goals against the Eastern Pride and also got a brace against Newcastle. In both games he was substituted at around the hour mark - one wonders what he can do if he lasts the full game! Whether he lasts an hour or plays a full game tonight Stevens will have to be watched closely. In their first season in existence the Kingz did superbly to finish in 8th position, despite well-documented off-field problems, and much of the credit must go to coaches Wynton and Shane Rufer. Coach Wynton, named Oceania player of the 20th century, has played in the top flight in both Germany and Switzerland, and scored some telling goals for the Kingz last season as he guided his team towards the top six.

Both games between the clubs last season ended in 3-2 results for the home side - a repeat tonight would be more than welcome!

In goal Julio Cuello replaced Chris Marsh for last week's hammering of Newcastle, while in front of him was sweeper Levent Osman, whose presence in the team after missing the first game of the season has coincided with the team's two victories.

Che Bunce has missed all but five minutes of the season so far but could play a part here tonight, but Riki Van Steeden and Jonathan Perry should be in line for starts in the Kingz defence.

In midfield the Kingz are well served by Chris Jackson and skipper Harry Ngata, both pivotal figures last season for the club, while Ivan Vicelich caught the eye last season mainly playing in defence.

Apart from Steven's in attack the Chilean Aaron Silva averaged nearly a goal every two games last time around, and although he has only made two substitute appearances so far this season has already netted once.

Dennis Ibrahim has served the team well coming off the bench, and has looked dangerous in his limited outings, while Paul Urlovic, like Stevens, netted twice against Newcastle last week.

Other players that should figure are Aaron Lines, Jeff Campbell, the German Andreas Bluhm and Gerald Davis.

A win tonight will see the Kingz travel back across the Tasman in good heart for a home game against the Adelaide City Force in round 5, although they then face the daunting trip to Perth in round 6.

# fan's view

by Julian Floyd

Northern Spirit fans at North Harbour Stadium

When Northern Spirit was formed former Chairman Remo Nogorotto set up a Supporters Committee, who were responsible for liaison between the Club and the fans. The Club would benefit by getting positive and negative feedback and the fans would have an avenue to get issues put forward. It was situation where everyone wins, and this has been the envy of the NSL since it was introduced.

The new owners of the Club have also agreed that a Supporters Committee has an important role. So just who is the Committee and what does it do?

There are currently five members. We are actively seeking two others to fill the two vacancies for the McCartney Stand and O'Reilly Stand.

The five members of the Committee are.

Antony Bross - Web site
Julian Floyd - Away Travel (Bus and Inter-state) & Inter-club liaison
Rebecca Carey - Committee Treasurer & Event Organiser
Tony Calder - Committee Database and Infoline
Chris Wainwright - Hill Representative
Vacant - O'Reilly Stand Representative
Vacant - McCartney Stand Representative Members, both past and present, have put in many hours looking after the fans interests.

From the surface it may seem that there is not much done, but as with all Committees many unpaid hours go in so your help and support is gratefully received.

The Supporters Committee will be running buses to all the NSW and ACT away matches with the exception of Parramatta Power and Sydney Olympic. We will be trying to set up packages for people wishing to go to interstate and overseas matches. Generally a budget and intermediate package will be organised through an agent.

The web site is up and running and we will keep this updated with all the latest fans news. The address is www.spiritfans.com.

The information line will also be giving up to date travel and event information and the number to call is 02-8250 4004.

We are also hoping to run a trivia night, sausage sizzle and end of season night throughout the season.

If you have anything you wish to discuss with the Committee then you can either email nsfc98@yahoo.com or leave a message with the infoline and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

It is the eventual aim of the Committee to formalise an Official Supporters Club. But this takes time and requires us to set up a Club Constitution with a formal election process for the Committee. Before this can happen a full list of duties for each position needs to be written. It is hoped that this will be set up by the end of this season, and have a combined inaugural AGM and the Supporters Player Awards night directly after the last game of the season.

For further information on anything to do with Northern Spirit, check on www.northernspirit.com.au Here you can find the latest information on away games. Coming soon, text updates - read all the action as it happens, be it at WIN Stadium or Ericsson Stadium!

# match report with Dave Mason

SATURDAY OCTOBER 28, 2000.

Eastern Pride 0
Northern Spirit 2 (Mendez 29 pen, Moreira 36)
Mobil Park

Northern Spirit's new twin strike force of Ben Burgess and Alex Moreira formed an immediate partnership as Northern Spirit defeated a gallant Eastern Pride 2-0 at Mobil Park last Saturday night. Burgess, from Blackburn Rovers, and Moreira, from Carlton, were brought to the club to fix the goalscoring problems and indications on Saturday night were that those problems could be a thing of the past.

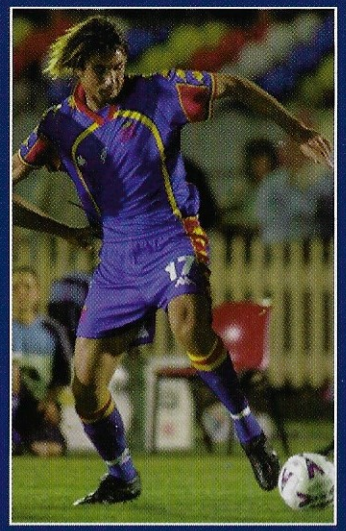
Moreira found the back of the net with a neat finish and Burgess played strongly, winning the team a penalty in the 29th minute that was converted by skipper Chi Chi Mendez.

Moreira was the best player on the field as he wanted to prove to Coach Graham Arnold that he was worthy of a full time position in the starting line up.

After the match Arnold knew Moreira's worth as a starting player and he also knew that together with Burgess, who was again strong, he had found a very strong strike force.

The match started well for Northern Spirit with several shots flying just wide and Pride goalkeeper Bojo Jevojevic called upon to save his side on two occasions.

Spirit opened the scoring through Mendez's penalty and the little maestro also played a big part in Moreira's first strike for Northern Spirit in the 36th minute.



At half time Arnold pleaded with his troops not to drop off in the second term and they did not disappoint.

Eastern Pride came out full of running in the second half but the Spirit defence of Arnold, Matthew Bingley and Michael Cunico restricted the home side to long range shots. Paul Henderson did not make one save but handled a few crosses well in keeping his second consecutive clean sheet.

Best for the Spirit were Moreira, Cunico and midfielder Troy Cranney, while Robbie Enes also played well in the deep midfield position after Noel Spencer pulled out with shin splints.

"That was a very good all-round performance," Arnold said. "We attacked well, created chances, had plenty of shots, scored two goals and then defended very well when they came at us. It was a very complete performance."

The only blemish was a yellow card to Mendez, who has now picked up three cards from three matches.

NORTHERN SPIRIT : Henderson, Arnold, Bingley, Cunico, Langdon, Slater, Cranney, Enes, Mendez (Bilokapic 79), Moreira and Burgess (Perinich 81).
Yellow cards: Mendez 67

Matthew Langdon

# spirit round-up

## R3 results

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 27.10.00 | Kingz FC | 5 - 1 | Newcastle Utd |
| 27.10.00 | Parramatta Power | 3 - 1 | Brisbane Strikers |
| 28.10.00 | Canberra Cosmos | 3 - 0 | Melb Knights |
| 28.10.00 | Wollongong Wolves | 1 - 0 | Marconi |
| 28.10.00 | Eastern Pride | 0 - 2 | NORTHERN SPIRIT |
| 29.10.00 | Sth Melbourne | 1 - 1 | Carlton |
| 29.10.00 | Sydney Utd | 2 - 1 | Perth Glory |
| 29.10.00 | Sydney Olympic | 3 - 0 | Adelaide City |

NEXT HOME GAME
11-11-00 NORTHERN SPIRIT Vs Newcastle United
7:30pm North Power Stadium Gosford

## R4 draw

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3/11/00 | NORTHERN SPIRIT vs Kingz FC | 7.30pm | North Sydney Oval |
| 3/11/00 | Adelaide City Force vs Eastern Pride | 8.00pm | Hindmarsh Stadium |
| 3/11/00 | Newcastle United vs Parramatta Power | 7.30pm | Marathon Stadium |
| 4/11/00 | Marconi Stallions vs South Melbourne | 7.00pm | Marconi Stadium |
| 4/11/00 | Perth Glory vs Sydney Olympic | 7.00pm | Perth Oval |
| 4/11/00 | Brisbane Strikers vs Canberra Cosmos | 6.00pm | Suncorp Metway Stadium |
| 5/11/00 | Carlton vs Sydney United | 3.00pm | Bob Jane Stadium |
| 5/11/00 | Melbourne Knights vs W'gong Wolves | 6.00pm | Knights Stadium |

## 2000/01 Competition ladder

| POS | TEAM | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | PTS | POS | TEAM | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Sydney United | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 9 | NORTHERN SPIRIT | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| 2 | Sydney Olympic | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 10 | Perth Glory | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| 3 | Football Kingz | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 11 | Canberra Cosmos | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| 4 | Marconi Stallions | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 12 | Brisbane Strikers | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| 5 | Melbourne Knights | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 13 | Parramatta Power | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| 6 | Carlton SC | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 14 | Eastern Pride | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| 7 | W'gong Wolves | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 15 | Newcastle United | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 1 |
| 8 | South Melbourne | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 16 | Adelaide City Force | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 0 |



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**Don't miss out - call Spirit Headquarters on 9460 2187 and join now !!**

# WIN !

**A trip for two flying with the team to watch Northern Spirit take on Carlton in their Round 8 clash on Sunday, 3rd December at Bob Jane Stadium.**

All you have to do is fill in the *coupon below and place your entry in one of the entry boxes inside the gates. There is no limit to the number of entries and the competition runs over the next three home games. The competition will be drawn at half-time during our Round 7 match against Perth Glory at North Sydney Oval. **The more programmes you buy the more chances you have of winning !!**

Title: _____

First Name: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____

Email: (if applicable) _____

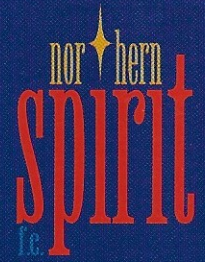
Telephone: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Male or Female: _____

Mem. No. (if applicable) _____

*All details must be completed for valid entry

KIDS CLUB




## TRUE OR FALSE ??

**Five of these statements are true - but which one is false?**

1. Robbie Slater is the Northern Spirit's highest ever-goal scorer with 10 goals for the club.
2. Fomer Kingz star Marcus Stergiopoulos now plys his trade for Lincoln City in the UK.
3. Spirit has played the Marconi Stallions 8 times in the NSL in just two seasons.
4. Sydney Olympic has never won the Grand Final.
5. Former Spirit favourite Kresimir Marusic is now with Sydney Olympic.
6. Kingz skipper Harry Ngata had a spell with Hull City in the UK.

## Want to be a Northern Spirit Mascot?

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- Quarterly Newsletter
- Sausage Sizzle with the Players
- 10% discount on all Spirit Merchandise

**To join phone Spirit Headquaters NOW on 9460 2187**

Answers: 4 - Sydney Olympic won the Grand Final in season 1989/90.



## WORD SEARCH

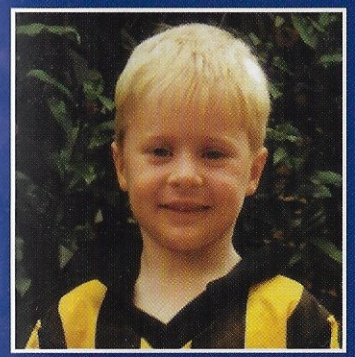
Included in this jumble of letters are the surnames of seven Spirit players listed below. The names can appear in any line - vertically, horizontally or diagonally, and can be backwards or forwards! When you've got all seven Spirit names, look for one of tonight's opposition whose name will be left....

Spirit players:

**Perosh**
**Cunico**
**Cranney**
**Perinich**
**Watkins**
**Arnold**
**Thomas**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | S | O | R | E | P | C | G | A |
| T | P | E | R | I | N | U | V | A |
| A | E | C | M | F | L | N | P | M |
| R | R | G | A | T | M | I | C | G |
| N | I | B | C | F | C | C | I | X |
| O | N | Q | S | A | M | O | H | T |
| L | I | J | A | C | K | S | O | N |
| D | C | S | N | I | K | T | A | W |
| A | H | C | R | A | N | N | E | Y |

## Meet the Mascot



Name: Aden Mann
Age: 8
From: Wahroonga
Favourite Player: Robbie Slater

Answer: Chris JACKSON

# latests news &views

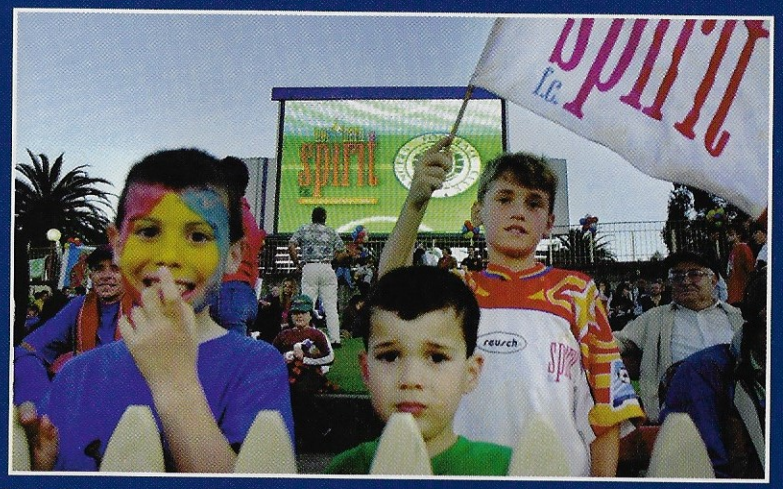
• A few of the Spirit players should pass some personal milestones this season if all goes well.
Matty Langdon played his 50th NSL game against Sydney Olympic, while Paul Bilokapic isn't far short of his 150th NSL game. Club Captain Robbie Slater is just short of the 250 mark, while Troy Cranney will hit that mark later this season as well.

• Spirit captain Gabriel (Chi Chi) Mendez picked up an unwelcome hat-trick last Saturday night at Eastern Pride when he was booked by referee Jeremy Blaney. It was the third time in three games Mendez has been booked, although he would have been happier with Mr Blaney writing his name and number down earlier when he scored Spirit's first goal from the penalty spot.

• Spirit were rocked with the news that new signing Noel Spencer has succumbed to shin splints, which forced him to miss the game against Eastern Pride.

• After finishing bottom of the ladder last season Sydney United are the surprise early season pace setters this time around. Their shock 2-1 win over Perth Glory last weekend made it three wins out of three for Alan Hunter's men, who of course surprised Spirit in round 1 of the NSL season with a 2-1 victory.
Biggest surprise last week was with Canberra's 3-0 victory over the Melbourne Knights. The Knights were unbeaten and the Cosmos without a point after two games, so it looked like an away banker if ever there was one. Instead former Marconi Stallion junior Mark Hagger stepped up to score his first NSL goal, and further strikes by Brad Scott and Alex Castro made it a comfortable win in the end.

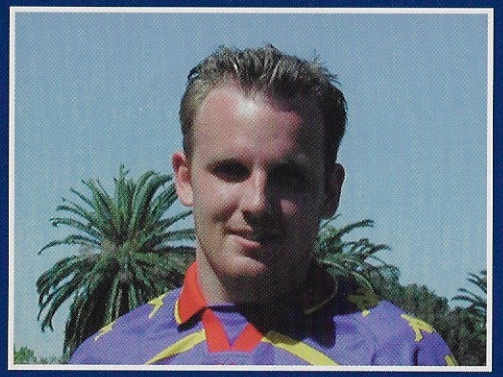
• Apart from ourselves playing tonight Spirit Matchday can see Adelaide City Force picking up its first points of the season with a win over Eastern Pride, while anything could happen in the Newcastle United and Parramatta Power game. Tomorrow night it will be hard to separate Brisbane and Canberra, while there are also two crackers in Perth Glory and Sydney Olympic and Marconi and South Melbourne. There are just two games on Sunday, with Spirit Matchday tipping Carlton to end Sydney United's dream start to the season, and the Knights and Wollongong to share the spoils.




• Some of the Spirit players were reportedly less than happy during the flight to and from Latrobe Valley Airport last Saturday night. Although no names will be mentioned white knuckles were the order of the day in more than one of the players!

# player profile

**After profiling Michael Cunico in issue 1, this week Spirit Matchday takes a closer look at Striker Daniel Watkins.**



## Daniel Watkins

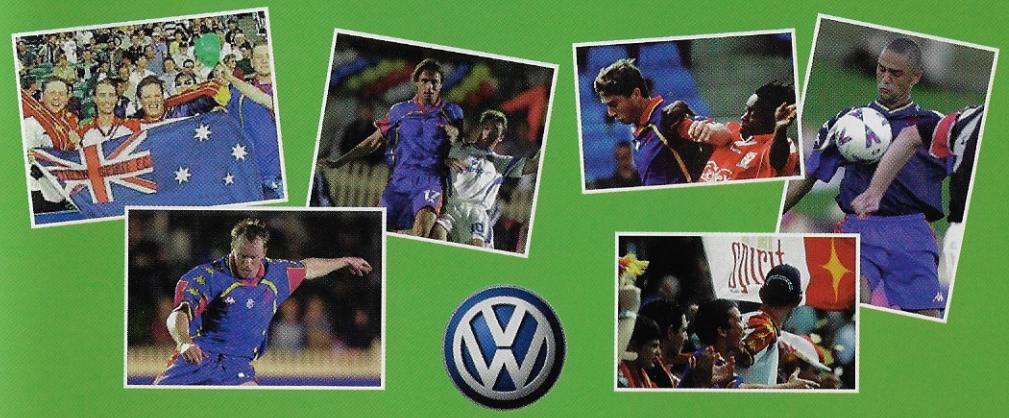
| | |
|---|---|
| Nickname: | Watto |
| Height: | 183cm |
| Weight: | 87kg |
| Date of Birth: | 8.7.80 |
| Place of Birth: | Sydney |
| Signed from: | N.S.W.I.S |
| Previous Clubs: | Canberra |
| Position: | Striker |
| Squad Number: | 18 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Favourite meal: | Lasagne |
| Favourite drink: | Diet Coke |
| Favourite band: | Listening to all sorts of music at the moment |
| Loudest teammate: | Robbie Slater! |
| Worst dresser at club: | For fear of getting crocked at training - Pass! |

Best player in the NSL (excluding Spirit players):
Brad Maloney from Perth Glory
Who will win this year's comp (excluding Northern Spirit): Perth Glory
Favourite player in your position: Michael Owen - Liverpool
Favourite player in the world: Michael Owen - Liverpool
Most like to meet (dead or alive): Muhammed Ali




# A LEAGUE OF OUR OWN!



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# FOREST KILLARNEY SOCCER CLUB

is seeking expressions of interest for the role of ***Senior Coach*** for our AL.1 Squad in the 2001 season. We are a small to average sized Club within the Manly Warringah Soccer Association with a strong, local community identification and would like to secure a Coach to guide our AL.1 team with a view to future promotion into Premier League.

All applications will be treated on the basis of potential benefit to the team and Club, and not necessarily strictly on qualifications.

Please reply by 1st December, 2000 to:

**The Secretary**
**Forest Killarney Soccer Club**
**P.O. Box 57**
**Forestivlle 2087.**

# national youth league

The Spirit Youth Team are top of the table after three games, with a 100% record under the guidance of former Tottenham and Norwich City midfielder Ian Crook.

Since the last issue of Spirit Matchday a late penalty sealed a 3-2 win over Sydney Olympic at Christie Park, and then last week the Newcastle United Colts were hammered 6-0.

The round 2 match against Olympic proved a real thriller, although at 0-0 at half-time it looked like it was going to be anything but.

With Olympic reduced to 10-men Spirit should have gone ahead, but it was no surprise when Olympic scored the first goal of the game with just 19 minutes remaining.

Matthew Hunter then equalised for the Spirit with ten minutes left, but disaster struck with time running out when Olympic were awarded, and converted, a penalty.

Ryan Griffiths then equalised on the stroke of full-time and was then brought down deep into stoppage time for the second penalty of the game. Simon Catanzaro made no mistake to give his side a 3-2 win.

Last week the Spirit youth league side had it much easier against the Newcastle Colts team, easing past their opponents with a 6-0 win. 16-year old Matty Engle was the star with a hat-trick, while Catanzaro made it four in three games with a brace.

Damien Pisano completed the scoring in a game Head of Youth Development Crook said, "It's hard to be critical when you win 6-0, but really I was disappointed we didn't get more."

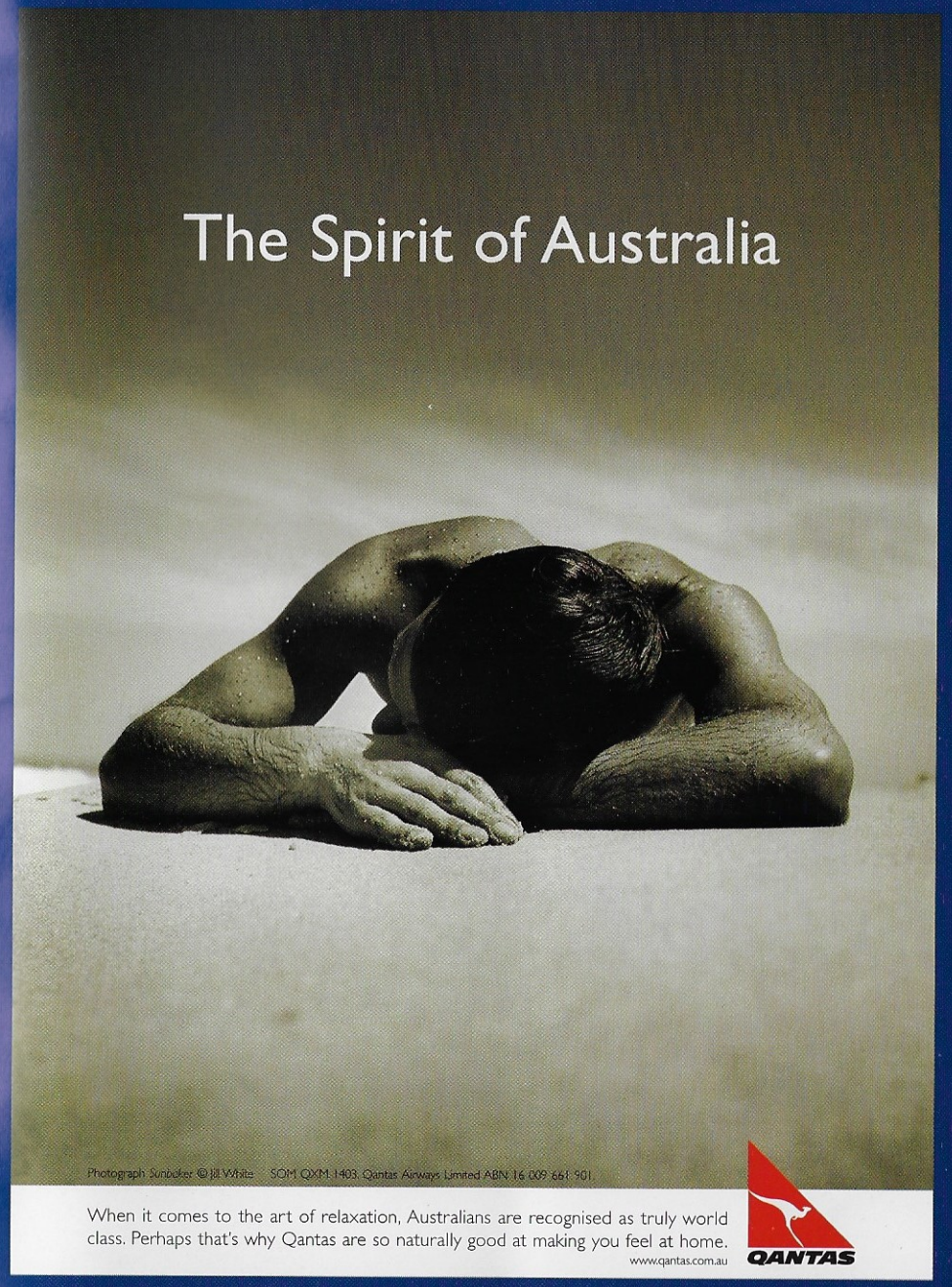
Although Engle and Catanzaro stole the show with their goals, Crook also said, "The boys did well - I don't want to pick individuals out for mentioning as it takes ten other players to help someone score a goal."

The boys will be in action tonight before the main game against the Kingz and they will look to make it four wins out of four in their game against the NSWIS.

**Results:**

**R2 NORTHERN SPIRIT YOUTH 3 (Hunter, R Griffiths, Catanzaro pen)**
**vs Sydney Olympic Youth 2**

**R3 Newcastle Colts 0**
**vs NORTHERN SPIRIT YOUTH 6 (Engle 3, Catanzaro 2, Pisano)**

**Up-coming fixtures:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 3rd November | Friday 5.15 pm | NSWIS North Sydney Oval |
| 5 | 11th November | Saturday 5.15 pm | Newcastle Breakers Youth North Power Stadium, Gosford |
| 6 | 18th November | Saturday 7.00 pm | AIS AIS Soccer Field |
| 7 | 25th November | Saturday 4.00 pm | ACT Academy AIS Soccer Field |